



June 8, 2020

Hon. Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We begin our letter by thanking you for your continued attention and concern in relation to the challenges and needs of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; especially the equitable treatment and priority given to the inclusion of our 3.2 million U.S. Citizens in all Federal Programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The improvement and maintenance of our surface transportation infrastructure in Puerto Rico is vital for our island's recovery from the current COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the series of major earthquakes and hurricanes, which have taken their toll on our local economy over the past several years. Like you, we recognize that a resilient and improved infrastructure is vital to attracting new investment and expansion of private sector employment.

Our Private Sector Coalition of Puerto Rico (the Coalition) represents the private sector of Puerto Rico, and consists of 38 leading businesses and trade and professional organizations, which constitute up to 90 percent of our islands' \$103 billion local GDP and approximately 75 percent of our local jobs. The Coalition continues to argue that economic growth is vital to the future of our island, and like our fellow US Citizens, we ask to be included and treated equally in any legislation to be considered and advanced into law by the Congress.

We are pleased to express our support for legislation led by you and your Colleagues Cong Norton and Lipinski and known as the "Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act" or the "INVEST in America Act". We note this legislation provides for a significant increase in funds from the Highway Trust Fund for Puerto Rico from the current level of \$158 million per year to a new level of \$210 million each year. These funds are sorely needed to upgrade our island's roads, bridges and public transportation.



Our Private Sector Coalition has steadfastly advocated for the inclusion and equitable treatment of Puerto Rico when Congress develops policies; especially those with an economic impact. We appreciate your decision to treat the US Citizens of Puerto Rico equally, when it comes to the application and eligibility for all initiatives in this package.

We stand ready to collaborate and work with you towards passage of the INVEST in America Act and its enactment into law.

With best regards,

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